

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7218
BILL NUMBER: SB 384

DATE PREPARED: Jan 3, 2002
BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Covenant Marriage.

FISCAL ANALYST: Kathy Norris
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FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

STATE IMPACT	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
State Revenues			
State Expenditures	18,095	7,095	7,095
Net Increase (Decrease)	(18,095)	(7,095)	(7,095)

Summary of Legislation: This bill defines "covenant marriage". The bill provides that couples may designate a covenant marriage when applying for a marriage license or after marriage. It requires a marriage license to indicate whether the marriage is a covenant marriage. The bill establishes the procedure for declaring a covenant marriage. It also requires the State Department of Health to maintain records of covenant marriage declarations. The bill provides limited grounds for legal separation or dissolution of a covenant marriage. The bill further requires the State Department of Health to develop an informational pamphlet regarding covenant marriage. (The introduced version of this bill was prepared by the Interim Study Committee on Family Law Issues.)

Effective Date: Upon passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The State Department of Health (SDOH) has identified some minimal costs to develop a new form for circuit courts to use to implement the new classification of covenant marriage and in creating the pamphlet providing information on covenant marriage required by the bill. Both of these costs can be absorbed in the existing SDOH budget. The Department also estimates that this bill would require approximately \$18,095 to implement in the first year: \$11,000 for one-time systems revisions and \$7,095 for the first year and each year thereafter for additional printing and postage expenditures.

This fiscal estimate is based on FY 2000 information provided by the Department of Health. When updated information is available, the fiscal note will be revised.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The county circuit court clerks may incur some additional expenses related to filing covenant marriage designations for existing marriages.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: State Department of Health.

Local Agencies Affected: Circuit Courts; Circuit Court Clerks.

Information Sources: Norma Selby, Grant Coordinator, Finance Division, State Department of Health, (317) 233-7573.